

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A DNA selected from the group consisting of the following (a) through (e):
 - (a) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (c) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 which is modified by deletion and/or addition of one or more amino acid residues, and/or substitution with other amino acids, and functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (d) a DNA hybridizing to the DNA comprising the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, and encoding a protein functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (e) a DNA comprising a DNA according to any of (a) through (d) and a DNA encoding other peptide or polypeptide, encoding a fusion protein.
2. (Withdrawn) A vector having the DNA according to claim 1 inserted therein.
3. (Withdrawn) A transformant carrying the DNA according to claim 1.
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a protein, said method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant according to claim 3 and recovering the expressed protein from said transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

6. (Withdrawn) An antibody binding to the protein according to claim 4.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound which binds to a protein, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) bringing the protein according to claim 4 into contact with a sample to be tested, and

(b) selecting a compound having the activity to bind to the protein.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting or measuring a protein, said method comprising bringing the antibody according to claim 6 into contact with a test sample, and detecting or measuring the formation of an immune complex of said antibody and a protein that specifically binds said antibody.

9. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide hybridizing to the DNA comprising the base sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complementary strand thereof and having a chain length of at least 15 bases.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~which is~~ modified by one or more of: (i) deletion of one to thirty amino acids; and/or (ii) addition of one to thirty or more amino acid residues, and/or or (iii) substitution of one to thirty amino acids with other amino acids, wherein the protein binds a PDZ protein. ~~and functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.~~

12. (New) The protein of claim 11, wherein the number of amino acids that are deleted, added, and/or substituted is two to thirty.

13. (New) The protein of claim 12, wherein the number of amino acids that are deleted, added, and/or substituted is two to ten.

14. (New) A protein encoded by a DNA hybridizing at 65°C in 2x SSC and 0.1% SDS to a DNA consisting of the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the protein binds a PDZ protein.

15. (New) A fusion protein comprising a protein according to claim 10 fused to another peptide or polypeptide.

16. (New) An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

17. (New) An isolated protein comprising amino acids 21 to 789 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

18. (New) An isolated protein consisting of amino acids 21 to 789 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (New) An isolated protein comprising a sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the protein binds a PDZ protein.

20. (New) The fusion protein of claim 15, wherein the other peptide or polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of FLAG, 6 histidine residues, 10 histidine residues, influenza hemagglutinin, human c-myc fragment, VSV-GP fragment, p18HIV fragment, T7-tag, HSV-tag, E-tag, SV40 antigen fragment, lck tag, α -tubulin fragment, B-tag, protein C fragment, glutathione-S-transferase, immunoglobulin constant region, β -galactosidase, green fluorescent protein, and maltose-binding protein.

21. (New) A fusion protein comprising a protein according to claim 17 fused to another amino acid sequence.

22. (New) The fusion protein of claim 21, wherein the other amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of FLAG, 6 histidine residues, 10 histidine residues, influenza hemagglutinin, human c-myc fragment, VSV-GP fragment, p18HIV fragment, T7-tag, HSV-tag, E-tag, SV40 antigen fragment, lck tag, α -tubulin fragment, B-tag, protein C fragment, glutathione-S-transferase, immunoglobulin constant region, β -galactosidase, green fluorescent protein, and maltose-binding protein.

23. (New) A method of screening for a compound that binds to a G protein-coupled receptor protein, the method comprising:

- (a) exposing a test sample to the protein of claim 10, and
- (b) selecting a compound that binds to the protein.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the protein consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the protein is a fusion protein comprising amino acids 21 to 789 of SEQ ID NO:2 and another peptide or polypeptide.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the other peptide or polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of FLAG, 6 histidine residues, 10 histidine residues, influenza hemagglutinin, human c-myc fragment, VSV-GP fragment, p18HIV fragment, T7-tag, HSV-tag, E-tag, SV40 antigen fragment, lck tag, α -tubulin fragment, B-tag, protein C fragment, glutathione-S-transferase, immunoglobulin constant region, β -galactosidase, green fluorescent protein, and maltose-binding protein.

27. (New) A method of producing an antibody, the method comprising immunizing an animal with a polypeptide comprising (a) SEQ ID NO:2 or (b) an antigenic fragment of SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.